

Types of Assessments and Evaluations

By Linda C. Neumann

Twice-exceptional children may undergo many types of assessments or evaluations. These may be done by the school or done independently. Here's an overview of some of the tests parents are most likely to encounter with their 2e kids. (These tests are administered individually rather than to a group of children.) The most recent versions of tests are listed here; earlier editions may still be in use.

Achievement Tests

These tests show what a child has learned. The *Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Achievement*, Third Edition (WJ-III), are a diagnostic tool used to determine whether a student has learning disabilities. It is also used to test gifted children because of its "high ceiling," or test items in the higher range of difficulty. It consists of two sections:

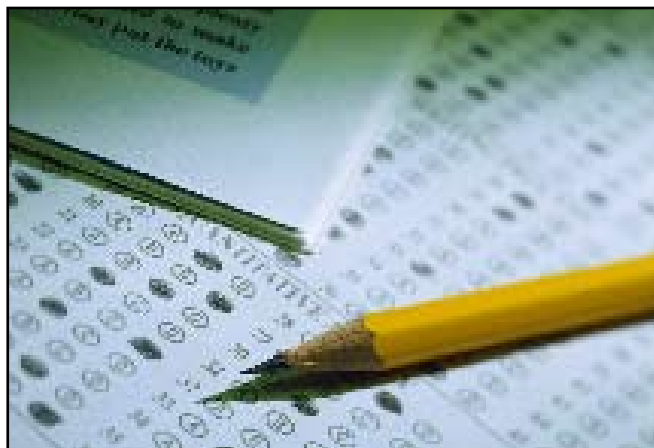
cognitive and achievement, each made up of subtests and a supplement battery of tests.

The *Kaufmann Tests of Educational Achievement*, Second Edition (KTEA-II), screens students on global achievement skills to determine the need for follow-up testing and evaluation. The test consists of reading, math, and spelling subtests. It is considered by some to provide a more realistic assessment of reading for young gifted elementary students.

The *Wechsler Individual Achievement Test*, Second Edition (WIAT-II), tests the educational achievement of children and adolescents in core subject areas. It consists of nine subtests in the areas of reading, math, and oral and written language.

IQ Tests

These tests assess general cognitive ability, or intelligence. The Wechsler Tests use two separate scores, a verbal abilities score and a performance abilities score to produce an overall IQ score. Comparing verbal and performance scores can reveal possible problems that would not be apparent with a test that yields a single IQ score.



The most recent editions of the three Wechsler tests are:

- *Wechsler Intelligence Scale For Children*, Fourth Edition (WISC-IV), for ages 6½ to 16½
- *Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence*, Third Edition (WPPSI-III), for ages 2½ to 7¼
- *Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale*, Third Edition (WAIS-III), for ages 16 and up

The Stanford-Binet Tests assess intelligence in individuals from age 2 through adult in short-term memory

plus three types of reasoning: verbal, quantitative, and abstract/visual. The two Stanford-Binet Tests are:

- The *Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale*, Fifth Edition (SB5), which includes advanced math and spatial reasoning items.
- The *Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale*, Form L-M (SBL-M), an

older version of the test that emphasizes verbal abstract reasoning ability. It was designed, in part, to identify the highly gifted. Due to its high ceiling, this test is still being used, often as an additional assessment for children who hit the ceiling on the WISC.

Other Assessments

Other types of assessments for 2e children include:

- Neuropsychological evaluation, which may be done to identify the cause of learning difficulties and provides picture of a child's strengths, weaknesses, and approach to learning and other areas of functioning (See the note in the adjoining column.)
- Functional behavioral assessment, a problem-solving process that looks at the causes of a child's problem behavior in order to develop interventions to address that behavior. 23